retainers **72** and **74** for ensuring that articles do not slide off carriers **66**.

It will be seen that we have accomplished the objects of our invention. We have provided an integral molded toothed belt which is especially adapted for use on a merchandising machine. Our belt is sufficiently flexible to permit it to be trained around a small diameter sprocket while at the same time being sufficiently rigid to permit the pushers to support the weight of an article of merchandise being dispensed by the machine. Our belt is more simply and expeditiously produced than are belts of the prior art with the result that it is less expensive. Our belt can be raised to sterilization temperatures without heat distortion so that it is eminently suited for use in dispensing food.

It will be understood that certain features and subcombinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and subcombinations. This is contemplated by and is within the scope of our claims. It is further obvious that various changes may be made in details within the scope of our claims without departing from the spirit of our invention. It is, therefore, to be understood that our invention is not to be limited to the specific details shown and described.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim is:

1. In a machine for dispensing articles of merchandise, a unitary belt comprising a molded length of polypropylene of a thickness providing functional rigidity, spaced molded teeth formed integrally with said length on one side thereof, respective areas of said polypropylene substantially thinner than said length extending across said belt immediately adjacent said teeth to provide functional flexibility in said areas and respective integrally molded

members outstanding from the opposite side of said length extending substantially completely transversely across said length and being of a thickness providing functional rigidity, said members defining compartments housing articles of merchandise to be dispensed.

2. A machine as in claim **1** in which each of said members is located on said opposite side at a location corresponding to the location of a tooth.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

516,675	3/1894	Cook	221—28 X
1,453,585	5/1923	Guiffre et al.	221—78
2,939,860	6/1960	Schramm.	
2,941,413	6/1960	Huber et al.	154—52.2 X
2,983,637	5/1961	Schmidt.	
3,058,863	10/1962	Gaines et al.	
3,068,710	12/1962	Beckadolph et al.	154—52.1 X
3,077,925	2/1963	Perkins et al.	154—52.1 X

FOREIGN PATENTS

447,526	3/1948	Canada.
849,776	9/1960	Great Britain.

OTHER REFERENCES

"New Built-in Properties of Polypropylene Open Fresh Markets," Resin News, June, 1961, page 4. (Copy in 154—polythene digest, and Scientific Library.)

SAMUEL F. COLEMAN, *Primary Examiner.*

WILLIAM B. LABORDE, *Examiner.*